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The Arbitration Treaties.

We had hoped to be able to announce in this issue that the pending arbitration treaties had been ratified by the Senate. But this good news is not yet quite ripe. Not much attention has been given to the subject openly by the Senate since it reassembled after the holidays, though in private it has had constant consideration by Senators. A speech against the treaties has been made by Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, and two in their favor by Senator Rayner of Maryland and Senator McCumber of North Dakota. Petitions and letters from all parts of the nation have continued to pour in upon the Senate urging ratification, and there have been a few, mostly from Irish societies, in opposition. It does not seem that final action can be much longer delayed. The people are growing somewhat impatient at what seems to them to be needless delay, and the Senate is

being made aware of this fact. It is becoming clear, also, to Senators that further delay will inevitably be interpreted as discourtesy, if not worse, to the other governments who are signatories of the treaties. As we go to press, Senator Lodge, representing the majority of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, is trying to get a date agreed upon for taking the vote, and we shall doubtless know before many days what the Senate as a whole thinks of what is certainly the most important matter on which it has been called to pass for many a year.

German-American Opposition to the Treaties.

One of the most unfortunate circumstances connected with the pending treaties of arbitration with Great Britain and France has been the opposition to them, either outspoken or silent, of a considerable number of prominent citizens of German origin. Only in a few centers where German influence is unusually marked has this opposition been strong and unyielding. Many prominent Germans, and even whole groups of them, have been prompt in their support of the treaties from the start.

It has at last become clear that this opposition has, for the most part, grown out of misconception based on want of information, and not out of any inherent dislike of such treaties in themselves. The impression got abroad, and was sedulously cultivated by opponents of the treaties, that our Government and people cared nothing for a treaty with Germany, and were deliberately ignoring her. The origin of this misunderstanding seems to have been the fact that a treaty with Germany was not sent to the Senate along with the other treaties, and the further fact that the steps already taken by the governments of the United States and Germany toward a treaty of arbitration had not come to the knowledge of the country in general.

Out of this situation came the other equally unfortunate impression that the Anglo-American treaty was a device concocted in England to create an alliance of the two English-speaking nations against Germany; that Great Britain was deliberately planning to assure to herself the aid of the United States in the attack upon Germany for which she has long been assumed to be making preparations.

It is out of these two unfortunate and wholly groundless misconceptions that nearly the whole of the German opposition to the pending treaties sprung.